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California Postsecondary Education Commission
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News Release

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State Higher Education Commission Appoints Education Administrator Karen Humphrey to Executive Director Position

SACRAMENTO — February 11, 2009 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission announced today that it unanimously appointed Karen Humphrey as its first female Executive Director effective March 1, 2009. Ms. Humphrey had been serving as the administrator of the Commission's Improving Teacher Quality grant program. She fills the position after the retirement of former Executive Director Murray J. Haberman last December.

"Karen brings enormous experience and energy to the position," said Commission Chair John Perez. "Karen has a strong research resume, has administered numerous education programs, has served as an elected official, and has been a television news anchor and reporter," he said.

Ms. Humphrey joined the Commission five years ago as the administrator of the Improving Teacher Quality Program, which distributes \$8 million in grants annually to partnerships between high-need school districts and higher education institutions to improve teacher quality in core academic subjects. During her tenure with the Commission, nearly \$40 million has been distributed in grants to these partnerships.

Ms. Humphrey has also led several Commission research initiatives in recent years. She produced a five-report series on the nexus between workforce development and postsecondary education; a research project on the gender gap in postsecondary enrollments and degrees conferred; and an advisory group that examined access and success of students in postsecondary education, focusing on LGBT and disabled students.

As a manager and consultant for the California Department of Education, Ms. Humphrey administered a successful interagency partnership with the California Workforce Investment Board to ensure education's participation in implementing the Workforce Investment Act, and managed \$14 million in state grants and multiple interagency activities.

Before joining the state, Ms. Humphrey was the first woman elected mayor of Fresno following two terms as a city council member. She also was a Central Valley television reporter and anchor at KFSN.

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Ms. Humphrey graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in Humanities; completed the Coro Foundation Training Program for Women in Public Affairs in Los Angeles; and participated in the Corinthian Broadcasting Corporation Summer Scholarship Program, at KHOU-TV in Houston. She earned a master's degree in Women in Public Policy from California State University, Sacramento.

In accepting the appointment as CPEC's Executive Director, Ms. Humphrey said, "It is a honor for me to be selected as the Executive Director to this critically important Commission. There is no doubt that higher education in California faces enormous challenges in the coming years. I look forward to working with my counterparts on the Education Roundtable to assure that all of education is protected in terms of funding and support."

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.